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BOOK NOTICES.

SMILES'S *Self-Help*. Edited by RALPH LYTTON BOWER. New York: American Book Co. Pp. 304. $0.60.

THIS well-known volume of essays is here presented in a form adapted especially to American readers. Since its first publication, fifty years ago, it has been translated into many languages, it has attained a widespread and enduring popularity, and has exerted a permanent influence upon character and conduct. These essays show that the happiness of every individual must depend upon his own efforts, and that true success is to be attained only through diligent self-culture, self-discipline, and self-control. In the present edition several passages of a distinctly local and British interest have been omitted. Many helpful explanatory notes make the text intelligible to even very young students. An appendix contains brief biographies of most of the important persons mentioned. This is a book which should be used for supplementary reading in every school.

Our Bodies and How We Live. By ALBERT F. BLAISDELL. Revised edition. Boston: Ginn & Co. Pp. 352. $0.65.

IN this revision of Dr. Blaisdell's *Our Bodies* the text has been thoroughly revised and in many parts entirely rewritten. The author's intent has been to bring his well-known book fully into touch with the latest and best scientific thought on physiology and hygiene. Many of the special features of the older book which have met the generous approval of teachers and educators everywhere since its first publication have either been retained or made still more effective. There are the same simple and interesting style, the same careful consideration of practical everyday health, and the same emphasis upon the use of simple experiments.

In addition, the revised book is fully illustrated with engravings and line cuts based upon original drawings and photographs; and the mechanical execution of the book as a whole marks an improvement over the older edition.

Steps in English. By A. C. MCLEAN, THOMAS C. BLAISDELL, AND JOHN MORROW. Book I, pp. 245, with illustrations, $0.40; Book II, pp. 352, with illustrations, $0.60. New York: American Book Co.

THESE books constitute a distinct innovation in teaching language in elementary schools, which is at once sensible, practical, and modern. They teach the child how to express his thoughts in his own language, and do not furnish an undue amount of grammar and rules. They mark out the work for the teacher in a clearly defined manner by telling him what to do and when to do it. From the start lessons in writing language are employed simultaneously with those in conversation; and picture study, study of literary selections, and letter-writing are presented at frequent intervals. The books do not contain too much technical grammar, nor are they filled with sentimental twaddle and gush. The series will be welcomed by teachers who are tired of antiquated methods, and desire live, up-to-date books.

HOWE'S *Handbook of Parliamentary Usage.* New York: Hinds & Noble. $0.50.

THE unique feature of this new handbook is an ingenious visual arrangement of the whole subject-matter of practical parliamentary law in such order that when the book is opened in the middle, the chairman, the speaker, the member who next has the floor, or anyone else, has *before his eyes* a complete summary of *every rule* needed in the conduct of any business meeting. The surprising practicality of this arrangement and of the system of cross-reference used can be fully appreciated only by actual inspection of the book itself. Moreover, it is "really and truly" pocket size, and so does not have to be carried in the hand to and from meeting, but slips easily into and out of the pocket, without crowding or discomfort.

DICKENS'S *Christmas Stories.* Edited by JANE GORDON. New York: American Book Co. Pp. 304. $0.50.

THESE mirth-provoking and yet pathetic stories, written when Dickens was in the full maturity of his marvelous powers, are now issued in the well-known series of "Eclectic School Readings." They are repeated as originally published, except that some of the descriptions have been left out, others abridged, and allusions unfamiliar to American readers have been omitted. All the qualities that have made the name of Dickens a household word remain. It would be well if all school children could be introduced through this book to the master of English humorists.

Gateway Series of English Texts. General Editor, HENRY VAN DYKE. New York: American Book Co.

GEORGE ELIOT'S *Silas Marner.* Edited by WILBUR LUCIUS CROSS. Pp. 336; with portrait of George Eliot. $0.40.

Burke's Speech on Conciliation with America. Edited by WILLIAM MACDONALD. Pp. 164; with portrait of Burke. $0.35.

THE latest additions to this new series, which will include all the college-entrance requirements in English. The editorial work has been intrusted to scholars of special fitness. Each volume contains a portrait and a biography of the author, and an introduction dealing with the subject of the book, the way in which it is written, its relation to human life, and its place in literature. The texts are derived from the latest authoritative sources. The series should be welcomed by all teachers of English literature.

Elementary Algebra. By J. H. TANNER. New York: American Book Co. Pp. 374. $1.

THE latest addition to the "Modern Mathematical Series," prepared under the general editorship of Professor Wait, of Cornell University. The transition from arithmetic to algebra has been made as easy and natural as possible, and the author has aimed to arouse and sustain the student's interest in the work, and to teach him to think clearly and reason correctly. The book is designed to meet the most exacting entrance-examination requirements of any college or university in this country, and especially the revised requirements of the College Entrance Board.